

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 49.

Please add new claims 50 through 71.

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50. (new) A method, comprising:

- a) initiating a call to a remote telephone interface at a first telephone interface;
- b) generating a first ring signal at a second telephone interface in response to said initiating;
- c) generating an off hook signal at said second telephone interface and establishing a connection toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network that resides between said second telephone interface and said remote telephone interface, said generating an off hook signal and said establishing a connection both a consequence of said generating a first ring signal;
- d) generating a second ring signal at said remote telephone interface and starting a timer that measures a time period over which said second ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a second ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of said establishing a connection;
- e) ceasing said second ring signal and sending a message through said packet data network toward said second telephone interface, said ceasing said second ring signal and said sending a message both a consequence of said timer having expired; and

f) ~~ceasing said off hook signal and asserting an on hook signal at~~  
said second telephone interface, said ceasing said off hook signal and said  
asserting said on hook signal both a consequence of said sending a message.

51. (new) The method of claim 50 wherein said timer lasts within a range  
of 2 to 3 minutes inclusive.

52. (new) The method of claim 50 wherein said first telephone interface  
resides at a PBX.

53. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein said second telephone  
interface resides at a second PBX.

54. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein said second telephone  
interface resides at a Central Office (CO).

55. (new) The method of claim 50 wherein said first telephone interface  
resides at a Central Office (CO).

56. (new) The method of claim 55 wherein said second telephone  
interface resides at a second PBX.

57. (new) The method of claim 55 wherein said second telephone  
interface resides at a Central Office (CO).

58. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said ~~packet data network~~  
further comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

59. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said packet data network further comprises a Frame Relay network.

60. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said packet data network further comprises a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

61. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

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62. (new) A method, comprising:  
generating a ring signal at a remote telephone interface and  
starting a timer that measures a time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of a connection that was established toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network in order to place a call through said remote telephony interface.

63. (new) The method of claim 62 further comprising ceasing said ring signal as a consequence of said timer having expired.

64. (new) The method of claim 63 further comprising sending a message over said packet data network toward a device that initiated said call as a consequence of said timer having expired.

65. (new) The method of claim 62 further wherein said timer lasts within a range of 2 to 3 minutes inclusive.

66. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

67. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said packet data network further comprises a Frame Relay network.

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68. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said packet data network further comprises a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

69. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

70. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said remote telephone interface resides at a PBX.

71. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said remote telephone interface reside at a central office (CO).

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